

### REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 16 are currently pending in this patent application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue subject matter that remains after the prosecution of the present application in a subsequent related application.

The Examiner has required that the present application be restricted to one of the following inventions via election:

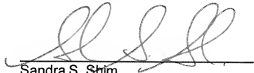
- I. Claims 1-9, drawn to a microparticle formulation comprising a drug, biocompatible polymer and an ionic liquid, classified in class 424, subclass 489.
- II. Claims 10-11, drawn to a method of making a microparticle formulation comprising combining a drug with a polymer and an ionic liquid where the liquid is removed, classified in class 424, subclass 489.
- III. Claims 12-16, drawn to a method of making microparticle including making an emulsion comprising solvents, surfactants, polymer, a drugs [sic] and an ionic liquid where the ionic liquid is removed, classified in class 424, subclass 489.

Applicants wish to provisionally elect the claims of Group I in order to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Office Action of record. If there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee required to Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis.

Respectfully submitted,



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